

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04

CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 SWF-02 SY-03 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OPR-02

HEW-08 AGR-20 FEA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /216 W

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P R 011557Z MAR 74

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6949

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

COMCARIBSEAFRON

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0568

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GJ PINS PINT

SUBJ: GRENADA DOCKERS END STRIKE

REFS: BTN 0504

SUMMARY: TALKS BETWEEN GOG AND WATERFRONT WORKERS HAVE PRODUCED SETTLEMENT OF THREE-MONTH LONG PORT STRIKE WITH GOG INDICATING IT WILL COMPLY WITH MOST OF DOCKERS' DEMANDS. BOMB EXPLOSION DAMAGES GRENADA RADIO STATION, AND GOG ANNOUNCES PLANS TO INCREASE SIZE OF DEFENSE FORCE. FUNDS SHORTAGE FORCE SCHOOL CLOSURE, AND GROUPS INVOLVED IN ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS CONTINUE TO COMPLAIN OF GOVERNMENT HARRASSMENT. GOG ANNOUNCES NEW CABINET APPOINTMENT. END SUMMARY.

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1. GRENADA'S SEAMEN AND WATERFRONT WORKERS' UNION (SWWU) HAS

ENDED ITS TWELVE-WEEK PROTEST SHUTDOWN OF GRENADA PORT AND HAS AGREED TO CALL ON UNIONS IN NEIGHBORING ISLANDS TO END BOYCOTT OF GRENADA-BOUND SHIPPING. DECISION CAME MARCH 28 AT CONCLUSION OF WEEK-LONG TALKS BETWEEN GOG REP SEN. DEREK KNIGHT, SWWU GENSEC ERIC PIERRE, CARIBBEAN CONGRESS OF LABOUR (CCL) SECRETARY-TREASURER BURNS BONADIE, AND REPS OF GRENADA'S TRADE UNION COUNCIL. PRESS RELEASE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF TALKS INDICATED GOG WOULD DISBAND SECRET POLICE AND POLICE AIDES, NOW KNOWN AS VOLUNTEERS FOR PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WOULD WELCOME RESUMPTION OF HEARINGS BEFORE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ESTABLISHED LAST DECEMBER TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE BRUTALITY. GOG ALSO INDICATED IT WOULD PUBLISH COMMISSION'S REPORT AND WOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. GOG ALSO SAID TO HAVE GIVEN ASSURANCES IT WOULD EXPEDITE CORONER'S INQUEST INTO DEATH OF BUSINESSMAN RUPERT BISHOP, FATHER OF NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT (NJM) LEADER MAURICE BISHOP, KILLED IN CLASH BETWEEN PRO-AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATORS JAN 21.

2. SWWU GENSEC PIERRE TOLD PRESS UNION HAD DROPPED DEMAND FOR HOLDING OF NEW ELECTIONS WITHIN SIX MONTHS BECAUSE IT WAS POLITICAL ISSUE. ANOTHER DEMAND THAT GOG OPERATED RADIO GRENADA BE PLACED UNDER INDEPENDENT STATUTORY BODY WILL REPORTEDLY BE SUBJECT OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. PIERRE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. SHIPMENTS OF GOODS FOR GRENADA NOT EXPECTED TO BEGIN ARRIVING UNTIL LATE THIS WEEK, BY WHICH TIME PIERRE SAID SWWU WOULD HAVE INDICATION OF GOG'S INTENTION TO HONOR ITS ASSURANCES. ACCORDING TO PRESS, GRENADA ELECTRICITY SERVICES' SUPPLY OF DIESELENE TO OPERATE ISLAND'S MAIN POWER PLANT WAS DUE TO RUN OUT MARCH 30 BUT EMERGENCY RESUPPLY DUE SAME DAY. MEANWHILE, GRENADA MAGISTRATE'S COURT, ACTING WITH UNUSUAL SWIFTNESS, ON MARCH 23 SENTENCED TWO MEN TO JAIL TERMS OF TWO AND SIX MONTHS RESPECTIVELY FOR ATTACKING AND BEATING PIERRE ON MARCH 19.

3. BOMB REPORTEDLY EXPLODED OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT-OPERATED RADIO STATION EVENING OF MARCH 25, SHATTERING WINDOW AND CAUSING MINOR DAMAGE TO STATION AND NEIGHBORING BUILDINGS. SECOND EXPLOSION EARLY MORNING MARCH 26 REPORTEDLY DAMAGED SHOP IN PARISH OF ST. DAVID'S. OTHER EXPLOSIONS SAID TO HAVE TAKEN UNCLASSIFIED

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PLACE DURING PAST FOUR WEEKS, ONE JUST OUTSIDE PM GAIRY'S OFFICE COMPLEX IN BOTANICAL GARDENS, BUT THUS FAR NO INJURIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED. GOG HAS MEANWHILE ANNOUNCED PLANS TO INCREASE SIZE OF RECENTLY ESTABLISHED POLICE FIELD FORCE (DEFENSE FORCE) FROM 100 TO AS MANY AS 300 MEN. FORCE TO BE TRAINED BY INSTRUCTORS FROM UK UNDER AUSPICES OF BRITISH DEVELOPMENT DIVISION.

4. GROUPS INVOLVED IN EARLIER ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTEST CLAIM THEY CONTINUE TO BE TARGETS OF GOVERNMENT HARRASSMENT. GRENADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ADOPTED RESOLUTION MARCH 26 PROTESTING GOG SUSPENSIONS OF GUN AND HAM RADIO LICENSES TO ITS MEMBERS AND ALSO BLAMING GOG FOR FORCING DEPARTURE OF TWO DOCTORS FROM GRENADA.

MARCH 25 MEETING OF GRENADA CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION TO ELECT NEW OFFICERS WAS ADJOURNED AFTER CSA MEMBERS CLAIM TO HAVE DISCOVERED PRESENCE OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF GAIRY'S MANUAL AND MENTAL WORKERS' UNION (MMWU) WHO WERE NOT CSA MEMBERS. MEANWHILE ONE OF GRENADA'S PROMINENT CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ST JOSPEH'S ACADEMY, HAS ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION TO CLOSE OWNING TO GOG'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE ANNUAL GRANT TO PAY TEACHERS' SALARIES AND OTHER EXPENSES. SINCE JANUARY SEVERAL GOVT SUPPORTED SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RAISE FEES, AND TEACHERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING RETAINERS EQUAL TO 20 PERCENT OF THEIR NORMAL SALARIES.

5. RULING GRENADA UNITY LABOR PARTY (GULP) HAS NAMED NEWLY APPOINTED SENATOR GEORGE DONOVAN, FORMERLY MANAGER OF CARIBBEAN UNITED AIRLINES OF TRINIDAD, TO SUCCEED WINSTON WHYTE AS MINISTER OF YOUTH AND LABOR. WHYTE RESIGNED TWO WEEKS AGO AFTER FAILING TO RECEIVE GULP NOMINATION TO RUN IN ST PATRICK'S WEST BY-ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 5.

6. COMMENT: STRIKE HAS ENDED WITH GOG FINALLY ACCEPTING VIRTUALLY SAME DEMANDS IT ORIGINALLY YIELDED TO BUT THEN REJECTED LAST DECEMBER AND WHICH UP UNTIL TEN DAYS AGO PM GAIRY HAD INDICATED HE WOULD NOT DISCUSS. SWWU, AFTER REPEATEDLY STATING IT WANTED MORE THAN PROMISES FROM GAIRY IN WHICH IT PLACED NO FAITH, HAS RECEIVED NO GREATER ASSURANCES THAT ITS DEMANDS WILL IN FACT BE MET THAN IT HAD BEFORE STRIKE BEGAN. CLEARLY BOTH SIDES HAVE BELATEDLY CONCLUDED

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THAT FACE-SAVING COMPROMISE IS PREFERABLE TO INFLICTING FURTHER ECONOMIC RUIN UPON THE STATE. NEVERTHELESS, DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE INTRANSIGENCE OF BOTH SIDES HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE AND WILL NOT SOON BE REPAIRED. MANY BUSINESSES ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN IN SERIOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES BEFORE STRIKE BEGAN, AND SOME HIT HARDEST BY LOOTING IN LATE JANUARY ARE NOT EXPECTED TO RE-OPEN. EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS IN COMMERCIAL SECTOR WILL NOT SOON REGAIN PRE-STRIKE LEVELS. LOSS OF REVENUES FROM TOURISM AND EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY BANANAS, CANNOT BE RECOVERED. GOVT, WHICH LIVES HAND-TO-MOUTH EXISTENCE, LARGELY ON BASIS OF CUSTOMS REVENUES, IS COMPLETELY BANKRUPT WITH NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS FOR RAISING SUFFICIENT CASH EVEN TO PAY ITS OWN CIVIL SERVANTS. MOREOVER, EVENTS SINCE LAST NOVEMBER HAVE DESTROYED WHATEVER CONFIDENCE PRIVATE SECTOR MAY HAVE RETAINED IN GAIRY GOVERNMENT, MAKING COOPERATIVE EFFORT IN

REBUILDING GRENADA'S RUINED ECONOMY ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE.
THUS NO REAL END IS IN SIGHT TO GRENADA'S POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC TURMOILS, AND WHATEVER SENSE OF RELIEF GRENADIANS
MAY FEEL OVER SETTLEMENT OF PORT STRIKE WILL BE BRIEF
INDEED.
DONOVAN

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